



Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

Parish Pastoral Council MINUTES

Date	Thursday, 16 th March 2023
Time	7.05pm – 9.10pm
Present	Fr. Regie, Deacon Tom G, Blake B, Cecil F, Joshua C, Savita S, Helena V, Harlane P, Erica L, and Sidney L
Apologies	Fr. Andrew, Fr. Ever, Tony F, Beato P, and Ekhlis A
Welcome & Prayer	Joshua C

Item	Agenda/ Issue	Action/ Notes
1	Opening Prayer & Welcome	<p>Joshua said the Opening Prayer</p> <p>Joshua welcomed the PPC members to the meeting, and briefly discusses last February 2023 Minutes, which were prepared by Savita. Erica Passed the minutes and was seconded by Helena. No Changes</p>
2	Youth Update – Blake (15mins)	<p>Blake talked about having a guest speaker - Simon Carrington who will be coming out to MQOF to speak to the Youth of the Parramatta Diocese. He will be holding 3 workshops, and speaking about the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27th April – Sexual Desire – <i>Targeting Young Adults</i> • 29th June – How to date with Passion & Purpose – <i>Targeting Teenagers</i> • 14th October – Restoring Love – <i>Teenagers & Parents</i> • Workshops will be held at St. Patrick’s Church and is open to the whole of the Parramatta Diocese • These workshops are targeted towards young adults aged between 18-35 yrs. old and is also open to everyone in the Parramatta Diocese who wishes to attend. <p>Times TBC, and Blake is requesting the PPC’s assistance and support for these upcoming events</p>
3	PPC Formation – PPC Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deacon Tom – Shared with the group a short video from FORMED - The Story of Salvation. The group then had a short discussion and reflection on the film • Cecil mentioned that the purpose of discussing this video at the PPC meeting was to trigger a discussion on whether we could start groups of 5 or more in the parish that could meet on a regular basis and watch the Symbolon Series (20 videos) on FORMED and share in discussions for the purpose of being Catechised. Fr. Regie mentioned that Richard Desa has offered his service to train facilitators for these groups. Erica suggested that we could play some teaser videos before mass to encourage people to watch more of these videos on FORMED. Some members were in support of this idea, while others suggested that some parishioners use

		<p>the time before mass for prayer and preparation. Suggestions were also made to have the short videos played after mass for the same reason, but others suggested their could be logistical issues, if there are other masses & other services after the masses. It was agreed that the ideas & suggestions should be discussed at future PPC meetings after praying for direction. (Action to raise this topic at future PPC meetings – Cecil)_</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erica advised of the positive feedback she received at St. Michael’s, after she delivered the statistics and results of the survey held in late 2022. Parishioners were happy to hear that we are looking out for the different age groups in the community – especially mentioned bringing the older people to church who did not have transport. • Harlane mentioned that she had a conversation with a Parishioner at St. Michaels church, who did not know that Christ is the Eucharist we receive each week. Harlene invited the Parishioner to her place to discuss further the Eucharist. The parishioner only discovered about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist – even though she had been a catholic her whole life, including going to a Catholic school. The members suggested having some catechesis on this topic for our parishioners too. Josh mentioned that there was a direct link between the unbelief in the Eucharist & people leaving the church. Tom suggested that could also be the case in our Parish as many parishioners arrive late for mass and leave before mass finishes. A reason for us to encourage Catechesis on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist (Action – See how we could have catechesis on this topic in the future – Cecil)
4	<p>Children’s Liturgy – Josh (20 mins)</p>	<p>Josh gave a presentation on the Children’s Liturgy</p> <p>The PPC members discussed the logistics of how long to hold the Children’s Liturgy whether it be either before, during or after the Mass. There were also discussions of how to get the children more involved during the Mass. The members had mixed thoughts, and feelings on the matter and decided to discuss and finalise the Children’s Liturgy after prayer at the next meeting. Fr Regie will also consult with the Diocese before formalizing any Liturgy being held before Mass.</p> <p>Josh started the session saying “it was agreed that we were going ahead with the Children’s liturgy on the proviso that it is done by teachers as 1) they comply with the regulations required to deal with children and 2) they are trained in pedagogy and how to deal with young children”. Josh presented a curriculum which could be discussed with the teachers (in a train the trainer mode) and taught to the children. There was plenty of very good content from genuine Catholic sites including FORMED. Josh presented a whole list of material with stories within the whole Salvation Story.</p> <p>There was a suggestion to have the children be catechized for a whole hour, while the parents attended mass. But after a discussion this idea was vetoed on the principles suggested by Tom that 1) We are all obligated to attend Sunday mass, 2) Children to need to visibly part of the community, 3) Children attending mass is part of developing the discipline of life as Catholic, 4) the graces that children receive during mass is not conditional on whether they are distracted or not.</p> <p>There was a suggestion that Children’s catechesis could start before mass and they could come into mass before the Liturgy of the Eucharist. However this idea was also vetoed that it meant that the children would be engaged for an hour and half and would not be able to sustain that level of attention.</p> <p>The final suggestion that the members finally gravitated towards was – All the children attend mass with their parents. They remain in church for the Kyrie, Gloria & the opening prayer. The children would leave the church to be catechized</p>

		<p>just before the Liturgy of the Word (1st, 2nd Readings, Psalm, Gospel, Homily, Creed & Prayers of the Faithful) and would come back just before the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is estimated that this would take 25 mins as a minimum. The Children's liturgy session could be short & sharp 20mins that would include a video and some small learnings from it. The teachers would need an aid and would have to be well prepared for the lesson for this format to work.</p> <p>This suggestion could lead to having a full Sunday school outside of mass timings – if the previous suggestions matures & we have enough children.</p> <p>There was also an overarching principle suggested that the Children's Catechesis is being done on the principle that the Parish is only supporting the parents in their fundamental duty to bring their children to God. The catechesis of the children is fundamentally the responsibility of the parents and the parish was only supporting them in that role. There was an action for Josh to form a sub-committee to help with the curriculum and to gather & support the teachers that will be involved in the Children's catechesis (Action for Josh)</p>
5	Any other Business	<p>Sidney – suggested the need to have more Bibles sold in our Piety stores – Fr. Regie said that a whole box of bibles are now available for sale.</p>
6	Closing Prayer	<p>9.10pm Meeting concludes Deacon Tom said the closing prayer.</p>